

OPS 9-0 7/25

7 July 1975

Deputy Chief  
London Bureau, FBIS

STAT

Dear Art:                      Subject: FBIS-BBC Standardization (Sourcelines)

Your letter of 4 June 1975 provided for our consideration a list of nine recommendations for the standardization of source-lines prepared jointly by the FBIS-BBC Standardization Working Group. All Headquarters' components with an interest in this subject have now carefully reviewed these recommendations. This letter may therefore be considered a coordinated response to your recommendations.

We approve without change or reservations your recommendations for items 1, 2, and 6.

We cannot accept item 3 for this reason: In Europe where television is virtually a state monopoly, the recommendation would work well. But this unfortunately is not the case in many other parts of the world we cover. For example, we have to use 'Tokyo Domestic Television' to distinguish between official and private telecasts. Also, we use "Lima Television" (in subslugs for relays via Panama City) to indicate that we do not know whether the originating station is official or private. Therefore we submit that the word "domestic" is essential in TV sourcelines.

We suggest that the recommendation of item 4 be amended to read: The word "domestic" and/or "external" will be included only in sourcelines of official radios and press agencies.

We agree to item 5, but with some reluctance. This refinement does not touch on the sticky question of when the generalized indication "external" would be applied and when the definite target would be used instead.

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We recognize item 7 as a BBC concession to standard FBIS practice, but we must point out that as phrased it misstates the case. FBIS does not specify the target in all cases where it is specifically indicated. FBIS does specify the target only when it serves a purpose to do so. We therefore submit that this recommendation should be recast as follows: When a sourceline is to include a specific target, the destination will be shown and the word "to" and not "for" shall be used in the description of the destination.

While we have no basic disagreement with item 8, we wonder who (BBC or FBIS) will determine when countries should be added to sourcelines for clarity. Perhaps we should reserve judgment on this recommendation until we have seen the proposed BBC list.

Item 9, we are not in favor of this. To include the destination in sourcelines for outbound presscasts would unnecessarily complicate the identification of copy at field bureaus. Moreover, multitargeted transmissions would require excessively long and involved sourcelines, which would be perplexing to consumers and handlers alike and result in no tangible benefits to either. If this recommendation were implemented, sourcelines such as the following would result:


- Kinshasa AZAP in French to AZAP Kisangani AZAP Mbandaka AZAP Budavu and Africa.
- Paris AFP in French to Europe the Near East the Antilles and Somalia.
- Buenos Aires IPS in Spanish to Bogota Caracas Quito Mexico La Paz Santiago Chile and Europe.

Please press ahead in ironing out the remaining areas of consideration on sourcelines and keep us posted on your progress.

Sincerely,

  
Chief, Operations Group

Distribution:

- Orig. & 1 - Addressee
  - 2 - Ops
  - 1 - FCS
  - 1 - Exec. Reg.
-  dh

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TO FBIS LONDON

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REF LD870, WE WILL HAVE A COORDINATED RESPONSE ON YOUR  
JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS RE SOURCE LINES BY NEXT WEEK. 27/2012Z JUN

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#0923

JUN 27 4 14 PM '75



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	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
<b>Remarks:</b>  John:  Here is my draft reply to <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;"> </span> 4 June letter recommending sourceline changes. The draft is basically a paraphrase of my memo setting forth FCS position on the FBIS-BBC Working Group proposals on sourcelines, which was coordinated with DRD and AG (see attachments). Make whatever <del>xx</del> style changes you wish, but let's hold firmly to our position. I am not sure how the Working Group functions. Does this reply go back to them for their reconsideration and possible counterproposals? Or does this end the discussion on these points? I hope the latter or else we will never get			
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
CHIEF, FCS			27 July
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Remarks: FCS comments on FBIS/BBC sourceline proposals. FCS position looks basically sensible. But does anyone see any major bugs in this?					
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<b>Remarks:</b>  <p>Per C/OPS' instruction, FCS has reviewed the FBIS-BBC Working Group's recommendations on sourcelines. For the most part FCS can agree with recommendations, albeit some with minor revisions. On #3 and 9, however, we reject emphatically for reasons stated.</p> <p>In the interests of moving this along, I seek your concurrence with FCS position. If not, we will have to thrash it out.</p> <p><i>FCS position seems reasonable to us.</i></p>					
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
CHIEF FCS					26 June 75
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<b>TRANSMITTAL SLIP</b>		DATE 26 JUNE 2975
TO: Chief, Daily Reporting Division		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p>Copies for your retention.</p> <p><i>Tybel: I have no quarrel with the FCS position, which seems both reasonable and soundly based. My</i></p> <p><i>concern JTS</i></p> <p><i>for the staff</i></p> <p><i>Agree - JTS</i></p>		
FROM: Chief, Field Coverage Staff		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241  
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)



26 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Daily Reporting Division  
Chief, Analysis Group

SUBJECT : FBIS-BBC Standardization: Sourcelines

REFERENCE :  4 June 1975 Letter

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1. FCS believes the FBIS-BBC Working Group has done a remarkable job in reaching a consensus on the sourcelines. FCS agrees without reservations to joint recommendations No. 1, 2 and 6 as stated.

2. On No. 4, FCS feels it should be amended to read: The word "domestic" and "external" will be included only in sourcelines of official radios and press agencies.

3. On No. 5, FCS agrees with some reluctance, but notes that this refinement does not touch on the sticky question of when the generalized indication "external" would be applied and when the definite target would be used instead.

4. On No. 7, this is a BBC concession to standard FBIS practice but as phrased it misstates the case. We do not specify the target in all cases where it is specifically indicated. We do specify it only when it serves a purpose to do so. Hence, the recommendation should be recast: When a sourceline is to include a specific target, the destination will be shown and the word "to" and not "for" shall be used in the description of destination.

5. On No. 8, FCS has no basic problem with this, but wonders who (BBC or FBIS) will determine when countries will be added to sourcelines for clarity. Suggest we reserve judgment on this recommendation until we have seen the BBC list.

6. On No. 3, FCS cannot agree. In the European area, where television is virtually a state monopoly, the recommendation would work well. But this is not necessarily the case in other parts of the world. For example, we have to use "Tokyo Domestic Television" to distinguish official telecasts from private telecasts. Also, we use "Lima Television" (in subslugs for relays via Panama City) to indicate that we do not know whether the originating station is official or private.

7. On No. 9, FCS cannot agree. What purpose would it serve to distinguish among the targets of a press agency? FCS contends that to include the destination in sourcelines for outbound press-casts would unnecessarily complicate the identification of copy at field bureaus and multi-targeted transmissions would require excessively long sourcelines, which would be perplexing to consumers and handlers alike and result in no tangible benefits for either. If this recommendation were implemented, the following sourcelines would result:

- Kinshasa AZAP in French to AZAP Kisangani AZAP Mbandaka  
AZAP Bukavu and Africa
- Paris AFP in French to Europe the Near East the Antilles  
and Somalia
- Buenos Aires IPS in Spanish to Bogota Caracas Quito  
Mexico La Paz Santiago Chile and Europe

Chief, Field Coverage Staff

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